UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/557
13 October 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: CHINESE

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 53
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 13 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to solemnly state the following:

1. In their statements during the just concluded general debate of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, representatives of Swaziland, Solomon Islands and an extremely small number of other countries openly brought up the question of the so-called "representation" of Taiwan at the United Nations. This move of advocating "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "one country, two seats" distorts and abuses the principle of universality and the spirit of preventive diplomacy, in disregard of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms of international law. The Chinese Government and people express their utmost indignation at and strong opposition to this move, which not only tramples on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), but also constitutes a serious encroachment upon China's sovereignty and a gross interference in its internal affairs and seriously hurts the feelings of the entire Chinese people.

2. Taiwan has been an inalienable part of Chinese territory since ancient times. Both the 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation clearly called for the return of Taiwan to China from under Japanese colonial rule after the Second World War, thus reaffirming once again China's sovereignty over Taiwan. The roughly 160 countries that have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China so far all recognize that there is but one China in the world and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. In 1971, the General Assembly, at its twenty-sixth session, adopted by an overwhelming majority resolution 2758 (XXVI) on the question of China's representation, which clearly and unequivocally "recognizes that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's

Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council." It was on the basis of that resolution that all the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and in all its agencies were restored to it, thus settling once and for all and in a just manner the question of China's representation at the United Nations politically, legally and procedurally and also rendering invalid the proposal on so-called "dual representation" sponsored at that time by a small number of countries.

3. The United Nations is an international intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations provides explicitly that only sovereign States are entitled to become members of the United Nations. The so-called "principle of universality" is based on sovereign States. Taiwan, which has never been a sovereign State but rather a province of China, in no way qualified to join the United Nations. Therefore, the "principle of universality" is not applicable to it at all.

It is also necessary to point out, in particular, that the question of Taiwan is different in nature from the questions of Germany and Korea, which arose as a result of international agreements at the end of the Second World War. It is therefore untenable and absurd to argue for Taiwan's "membership in the United Nations" based on the model of the "parallel representation" of East and West Germany and that of North and South Korea.

As a matter of fact, Taiwan, as a province of China, enjoys extensive non-governmental economic, trade and cultural ties with foreign countries, to which we take no exception. Taiwan, as a region of China, has also been allowed by the Chinese Government, in line with the one China principle and in accordance with the agreement and understanding reached between the Chinese Government and the parties concerned, to join such regional economic organizations as the Asian Development Bank and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in the name of "Chinese Taipei". However, it is absolutely impermissible for Taiwan to join the United Nations and other international intergovernmental organizations or to participate in their activities as a "sovereign State".

4. The question of Taiwan is a purely internal affair of China in which no other country has the right to interfere. To bring up the question of the so-called "representation of Taiwan at the United Nations" on whatever ground and in whatever form constitutes a serious encroachment upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as a gross interference in its internal affairs. Therefore, it is bound to meet with the strong opposition of the Chinese Government and people and that of the vast numbers of justice-upholding and peace-loving States Members of the United Nations.

The Taiwan authorities, in disregard of the overall interests of the Chinese nation, have tried by every possible means to induce a small number of countries to clamour for Taiwan's "membership in the United Nations". Such an attempt, which goes against the common aspiration of the entire Chinese people, including those in Taiwan, is doomed to failure.

The Chinese Government and people will, as always, firmly safeguard national unity and will never sit idly by in the face of any attempt by the

Taiwan authorities to split the country and obstruct and sabotage the grand cause of national reunification. It is the common aspiration and sacred mission of the entire Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots, to settle the question of Taiwan and accomplish the reunification of China. Only after reunification is accomplished can the Taiwan compatriots, together with other Chinese people of all ethnic groups, truly and fully enjoy the dignity and honour attained by their great motherland in the world.

5. The attempt by the Taiwan authorities to obtain "membership in the United Nations" is aimed at splitting China and creating "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "an independent Taiwan". It not only obstructs the peaceful reunification of China, but is also bound to cause tensions in the Taiwan Straits and pose a threat to peace, stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole. The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the principle of respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of a Member State, must be observed in carrying out preventive diplomacy. Otherwise, the only result will be tensions contrary to the Organization's wishes. It is not out of ignorance, but rather in disregard of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, that a few countries are advocating preventive diplomacy in connection with the question of Taiwan, which is purely an internal affair of China. This runs entirely counter to the spirit of preventive diplomacy.

6. The firm position of the Chinese Government and people in safeguarding their sovereignty and territorial integrity has won the support of an overwhelming majority of countries. The flat refusal by the General Committees of the forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the General Assembly to include the question of the so-called "representation of Taiwan" in the agenda of the General Assembly reflects the firm stand of the general membership in safeguarding the authority of the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly resolution concerned and bears ample testimony to the fact that the move by an extremely small number of countries, in violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), has no support at all. We advise those countries not to be hoodwinked by the attempt of the Taiwan authorities, strictly to observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the basic norms of international law and resolution 2758 (XXVI), and to refrain from repeating the same mistake and carrying out any activities detrimental to the long-term interests of their own peoples and to the fundamental interests of the Chinese people.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 53 of the agenda of the fiftieth session.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Ambassador
Permanent Representative